

May 77

AUSTRALIAN **UFO** BULLETIN



THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 43 MOORABBIN 3189 VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF 1976 REPORTS

Thirty three cases were reported to, or investigated by VUFORS for 1976, and, although the existence of a number of other reports is known from the press and other sources, the Society has not been able to obtain the details. Of the cases investigated, only four can be considered of sufficient merit to be worthy of classification as UFOs. These are:

Jan 28, Dargo, 11 p.m. Two farmers in a car were paced by a glowing yellow-white circular object which on occasions lit up the surroundings with a brilliant glare. The object appeared to have horizontal projections on each side and two more projecting from the under side at a 45 degree angle.

Jun 19, Glenluce, 6.35 p.m. A woman farmer observed a silent luminous football-shaped object approach over a hill, hover briefly, then with a slight shape and colour change, travel slowly out of sight on a steady horizontal trajectory.

July 13, 10 miles north of Rochester, 7.30 p.m. A low-flying "headlight-like" luminous object approached head-on towards two witnesses travelling on a road. The object swerved violently towards the front witness on a motorcycle, who was forced off the road. The object then swerved back to the other side of the road and suddenly vanished within a few feet of the second witness travelling in a van a short distance behind.

Sep 25, Karrianna, 11.20 p.m. Four witnesses in a car watched a group of red flashing lights rise from the ground in a paddock about 200 yards away. After hovering briefly at low altitude, the lights moved slowly away, followed by the witnesses in the car. The object stopped to hover a second time, then suddenly vanished. A few days later the witnesses discovered a 71 foot diameter circle of discoloured grass at the site. In following days one of the witnesses developed severe pains in the neck and ear, requiring medical treatment.

A further nine cases can be classified as possible UFOs. These cases exhibit a degree of "strangeness" and witness credibility, but either the available detail is meagre, or a natural explanation cannot be ruled out, even though improbable. The remaining cases are definitely identified, or reasonably capable of a natural explanation. The nine possible UFOs are:

Jan 4, Balaclava (Melb), 11 p.m. Two witnesses saw red object appear, stationary at first, then travelled horizontally to disappear instantaneously.

Mar 5, Dargo, 5.40 a.m. Two witnesses saw a round golden object approach over mountains. When about half a mile away it split into two parts which flew off in different directions.

Mar 15, East Burwood (Melb), 6.30 p.m. Two independent witnesses observed a white luminous sphere with a blue central glow emerge from a cloud, reverse direction, and re-enter the cloud.

May 1, Nicholson, 2.30 a.m. Two witnesses saw a swirling mass resembling fireflies hovering above a tree 150 yards away. When a torch was directed at it, the object instantly vanished, to reappear further away, causing a neighbouring dog to bark furiously.

Sep 12, Dargo, 8.45 p.m. Family of five saw an orange object lighting up the side of a mountain about 4 miles away. It manoeuvred up and down for 20 minutes, then abruptly went out.

Sep 18, Caulfield, 8.30 p.m. approx. Five witnesses in car saw a fixed pattern of four lights: two red, one white, one green. The object appeared to manoeuvre around the sky in a way impossible for a plane.

Sep 24, Carnegie, 7 p.m. Two witnesses; what was believed to be the same object as the previous case approached and circled above a plane, then flew away to continue manoeuvres similar to previous case.

Sep 28 or 29, Edithvale, 11.30 p.m. Apparently the same object again, passing over car. Two witnesses.

Oct 6, East Bentleigh, 8.30 p.m. Two witnesses; the same object again. A "mass" could be vaguely seen underneath the lights.

IMPORTANT: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 27

We are looking forward to the illustrated lecture by Miss Lorraine White to be given at the Society's annual general meeting, 8 p.m. May 27, in the National Mutual Theatrette, ground floor, 447 Collins St.

Miss White has travelled extensively through areas of South America that have become a point of fascination, especially to those who are intrigued by the theories of author Erich von Daniken. Miss White has met and discussed with Juan Moricz the extent of his claimed discoveries of the tunnel complex as described by von Daniken in his book "Gold of the Gods".

Miss White was also fortunate in arranging a flight in a light aircraft over the now famous Nazca Plains, suggested by some to be an airport, or even a spaceport of the ancients.

The extraordinary similarity in myths, legends, and even religious concepts between the Mayans and Mediterranean peoples has not gone unnoticed by Miss White.

So we are assured of a very interesting evening; certainly not to be missed.

TASMANIAN REPORTS

The 1977 Report of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (366 Huon Rd., Sth. Hobart, 7000) published early this year contains the details of cases investigated during 1976. 175 reports were received, of which 29 are recorded as unidentified. The following are reprinted from the Report:

Bothwell, 7.30 p.m., May 18: Two youths were out shooting south of the Lyell Highway. Initially they saw a red light through the trees about 100 metres off. They thought it was a camp fire. As they neared the light it went off, then reappeared close by, their dog became very timid, and they crouched behind bushes. The light was now white and looked mini tyre sized as it skimmed through the bush one metre off the ground and 25 metres away. The silent light then disappeared a second time, only to reappear some 200 metres to the north east. It was now red again and was soon lost from view. It was all over in two or more minutes. The other puzzling thing was the light seemed to be contained and it did not cast any light on the surrounding trees.

Midland Car Pacing: Mr. C. Lockett had a puzzling experience early on Nov. 11 when returning from Launceston to Hobart on the Midland Highway. The sighting commenced just after midnight as the witness was 5 km north of Campbelltown in the Tasmanian Midlands.

Lockett was following a car at the time and checked his rear vision mirror for any traffic behind. He was surprised to find a light behind the passenger's side of the car. It was very close, maybe two metres away and two metres off the ground. The elongated light was estimated as 30 cm high and 15 cm wide. The light just maintained its position behind the car. Lockett was puzzled by the fact that it did not reflect any light into his car or onto the mirrors; it seemed to be a contained light.

As he neared Campbelltown something seemed to pass over the light blocking it off, then it reappeared moving off at right angles over the roadside paddocks, then it was gone. The car ahead pulled in at Campbelltown whilst the witness headed south, trying to rationalize his experience, and keeping a lookout in case the light appeared again.

Twenty six km further south, at Tunbridge, Lockett picked up the light well behind his car. It moved up very fast on the driver's side, and he was able to view it in the outside mirror. If Lockett hadn't looked in his mirrors he would never have known there was a light behind the car. This time the light was the same height, but wider, and was only a metre above the centre of the road. The witness felt a pins and needles effect come over his body, although outwardly he felt quite calm. The effect wore off by the time he reached Oatlands.

A car now approached from the opposite direction and at once the light just turned itself off. Lockett was sure he would see something once the other car went past, but the road behind him was deserted.

The light was seen for the last time just south of Oatlands (23 km from Tunbridge). First he saw a faint ball of light but it soon increased in size and brilliance to a round yellow ball. It was crossing the paddocks to the witness's left. Then as he swung up Lemon Springs Hill he was able to view the light out of the passenger's window. Lockett decided to stop and ascertain finally what the light was, but in pulling up he took his eyes off the light and when he looked back it was nowhere to be seen. Lockett says he travelled most of the time up to 120 kph during the sighting, and the light was last seen about 12.20 a.m. The pins and needles effect was felt briefly just after Oatlands. It may not be connected, but on getting up that morning his left leg had no feeling, and would not respond for two minutes.

Contacts with local police failed to bring forth any other sightings in the area.

South Arm Sighting: Another sighting investigated at year's end came from South Arm, the witness being Mr. B. Barwick. Mr. Barwick arrived home at 1.45 a.m. and soon after noticed a bright light reflecting through the hall window. He went for a closer look from the front door. He was surprised to see a flattened football shaped object above trees 100 metres away across the road. The object looked to have ridges on it and was a variety of colours, white, red, green and orange. The object was clearly outlined and had a tail projecting up from the right top side. He estimated its size as about 5 x 3 metres, the tail was about 5 metres long. Mr. Barwick watched the object from inside the house. First it moved away to the east, then returned to its first position, then again went to the east until just a dot of light. The incident lasted 20 minutes.

TUFOIC recently reported on another case, occurring on Feb. 19, 1977, at 3.30 a.m.: Miss M. (16) came out of the house at Brighton, and stated that it was very dark, but she could just see the hills in the distance, and as she came through the front gates, she noticed a circular arrangement of orange lights. Weather conditions at the time was overcast. The arrangement of lights were approximately the size of the moon, and they moved erratically before disappearing behind hills. There was also a beam of light either from the lights to the ground or from the ground to the lights, but after the lights had disappeared behind the hill, the beam had also vanished. When the lights were first noticed they moved very slowly, stopping 2-3 times, then moving faster, diminishing in size and finally disappearing. The objects (or object) seemed to be directly above the Brighton Army Camp, and in particular, that side of the camp has the ACS Radio Terminal, any connection is of course speculative. The misty beam with well defined edges also presents a puzzle, cloud was at 4000 feet, which is too high for a chance reflection of local lights.

From the Hobart Mercury, 22/3/1977:

A Broadmarsh family last night reported its second sighting in three weeks of a strange orange light in the sky. The family, who don't want to be named, watched the orange light move up and down above Broadmarsh for about eight minutes after 9 p.m. Looking through binoculars, the object, which was about 8 km away, looked oval in shape. Three weeks earlier a member of the family reported seeing an oval shaped object 20 metres in diameter and circled by orange lights flying above Brighton Army Camp.

PRESS REPORTS

Mt. Gambier Border Watch, SA, 8/2/77: Two UFOs are claimed to have followed a couple as they returned from Meadows last Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Lane were a few miles out of Kingston when they noticed two dim lights behind them. There was no fog. Mrs. Lane says the lights followed them as far as Tantanoola. "They would get bigger and bigger and then explode in a colourful eruption", Mrs. Lane says. About the same time as the lights were noticed the clock in the car stopped and the speedometer also failed to function. "It was an extremely eerie experience", Mrs. Lane says.

Port Lincoln Times, SA, 3/3/77: Yet another "flying saucer nest" has been discovered in the Port Neill-Tumby Bay area. The latest find was discovered by Mr. Brian Bray on his property 14 miles north of Tumby Bay. The circular scoop in the ground is not far from the Bray homestead and the Lincoln Highway, and is also not far from similar marks found in recent years.

The mark is of the now well known "spun tyre" type with a centre undisturbed. It was probably made some time ago as sand apparently ejected from the mark in its creation has blown back into the scoop. Beneath this soft sand the ground is compacted hard. From the centre of the "nest" to its rim measures 7 feet 7 inches.

Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 17/3/77, reporting on the "nest": ...It is only a small distance from similar markings found in recent years by neighbouring farmers. This is the fifth find, all within a radius of 6 km, over the past five years. Each "nest" runs in a direct line from south to north, about 1.2 km apart. If another appears, it is expected to be near a large shed on the adjoining Gibbons property. All finds have been during the summer months.

The "nest" is about 4.3 metres in diameter and shaped like a large tyre. Its centre is undisturbed and has a circular hollow where soil has been removed and a rim which is hard. The rest of the thinly grassed paddock, last used for barley and wheat in 1975, has a top soil that is quite soft.

"I was driving a mob of sheep through the paddock when I saw it and wondered what it was", said Mr. Bray. "At first I thought it was a sheep down. There is nothing here that can make a mark like that. Too many people have seen these things. Red flashes in the sky and marks the same as this".

The mark is larger than the Tooligie Hill "nest" discovered by Mr. Robert Habner in Dec., 1971. In 1972 Mr. R. Bird found a "nest" on his property, but no one would believe him. A circular hole had been scorched in his wheat crop. In April 1974, Mr. Ray Swaffer and his father Trevor were ploughing at night and both drove over a "nest". In April 1973, Mr. Geoffrey Carr found a "nest" on a hillside on his property. Mr. Carr said that he mentioned the mark to his neighbour, the late Mr. Ken Ware, who said that some time earlier he had gone outside late one night to care for a sick animal and had seen lights in the vicinity of the mark. After returning inside his home, he had heard a whirring noise. It had also been reported that a mark was created in a crop on the property of Mr. Alan Pollard, where the crop had been crushed with a half metre wide furrow about 90 mm deep....

Streaky Bay Sentinel, SA, 16/3/77: A Port Kenny farmer saw a bright flying object in the sky one night about five or six weeks ago. He has no idea what it might have been, except that it was brightly lighted, moved fast and was definitely not lightning or a comet. He kept quiet about his sighting of the object until a few days ago when his cousin found what has become known as a "flying saucer nest" on his property a few km from the Port Kenny township.

The man who saw the lights is Mr. Ken Little. His cousin, who discovered the nest whilst stone rolling a paddock recently, is Mr. Edgar Little, who lives about 2 km from Ken Little's farm. Ken Little said he had got up at about 2 o'clock one morning about six weeks ago and whilst standing on the lawn outside his home saw a bright flashing object hovering above the ground. He didn't know how far away it was, but it was a bright white light which lit up the ground beneath it - "Just like lightning", he said.

"It was a perfectly clear and calm night. There was no lightning, although this was like it. After a few seconds this thing took off and rose into the sky at about a 45 degree angle leaving a trail of bright light. It made no noise but it certainly moved fast. It lit up Edgar's sheds and paddocks". Ken said he was sure it was not a shooting star because of the way it rose into the sky. "Like a car leaves a trail of dust this thing left a lighted haze behind it", he said.

Edgar Little found the "flying saucer nest" on a rise in a paddock about 4 km from his home. It appears to have been there for a long time because its edges have been blown about by lifting winds and rains have flattened it a bit. About 2 metres in diameter, it appears to be a perfect circle with a "moat" depression at its perimeter. Earth inside the "moat" seems to have been hardened and has a crust, which can be easily broken through with a finger. Apart from one tiny weed at its centre, nothing has grown in the "nest" despite its apparent age. Edgar Little thought at first the mark could have been made by his son Wayne, 17, on a motor-bike. But this has been discounted. It does not appear to have been made by any animal or farm machine.

"It looked unusual when I first saw it", he said. "I mentioned it to Ken and he said he had seen lights in the sky a few weeks ago". However, the lights were seen in a different direction to the place where the "nest" was found. Ken Little told UFO Research, an organisation at 2A Castle Ave. Prospect about the lights....

Port Lincoln Times, 31/3/77: Two flying saucer "nests" have been found 100 metres apart in the hills at Poonindie. After reading about the Bray nest, farmer Mr. Don Laube of Boston View investigated two marks he had noticed some time previously. He said the first appeared identical in size to the Bray "nest" while adjacent to it was a smaller "nest". Mr. Laube said he could offer no explanation for the marks which are on the ground he described as very hard, being difficult to plough and which overlooks the aerodrome.

The Eyre Peninsula Tribune feels that the recent "nesting" activity should stimulate the average person's curiosity. Its editorial of 24/3/77 is headed, "UFO Sightings":

The finding of yet another "flying saucer nest" on Eyre Peninsula, and the continued sighting of strange bright objects flashing through the sky are making more and more people not only wonder, but believe that there is something out there in the solar system other than stars. The average person takes much convincing on some subjects, especially something in which they do not want to believe, or something they cannot see....

...However, this backward-looking idea is gradually fading away, as Mr. Bray of Port Neill recently proved, for he came forward to report the "nest" on his property, for scientific reasons as well as to suit his own curiosity. After this, it became known that there was not just one unusual shape in the district - five, within a radius of six kilometres, have been found during the past five years. Each mark is similar in design and size - too perfect and consistent to be made by human machines, unless there is something in the district that can blast the sand out perfectly and leave the perimeter excessively hard. Since the discoveries became known, people have become more open to discussing their own sightings and finds, for throughout the world today too many people are giving reports for them all to be wrong. Throughout the world, leading scientists and government departments are full-time in search of another being, for in this day and age of advancement nothing can be overlooked and no one can become complacent or ignorant enough to think we are the only race.

Melbourne Sunday Observer, 20/2/77: American scientists say aliens are at work on the surface of the moon. One American astronomer says it was to avoid confrontation with the aliens that the US suspended its moon exploration program. Astronomer George H. Leonard, of Rockville, Md., is certain the moon is being used as a kind of UFO base, because of markings observed there. "They are similar to that seen by a New Mexico police officer when he watched a UFO land", he said.

Leonard, 54, has spent years fighting official secrecy, studied thousands of official photographs and has talked frequently with top NASA officials. He has aerial pictures which show alien activity on the moon, including the levelling of crater walls by giant machines, and digging operations where sand is being sprayed in giant areas.

"I don't know who they are, but I do know the government is suppressing the discovery", he says. Astronauts were kept away from the area and no pictures show the beings themselves whom Leonard believes live underground. "Top people around the world have been briefed about the aliens, I know that for a fact", Leonard says.

Melbourne Age, 7/4/77: Mexico City, Apr. 6 - American author Charles Berlitz says a pyramid he claims to have discovered on the bottom of the sea in the notorious Bermuda Triangle is larger than the famous Cheops Pyramid in Egypt. Mr. Berlitz, 60, author of a book called the Bermuda Triangle, announced his discovery last week, saying that it shows a highly developed ancient civilisation may once have existed in the area. Dozens of ships and planes have reportedly vanished without a trace in the Triangle, at the junction of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Mr. Berlitz's announcement caused considerable surprise in scientific circles, especially in the United States. He said the structure was 180 metres high, but would not say exactly where it was located.

INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS

From April 17 to 24, an international congress on UFOs was held in Acapulco, Mexico. Among those listed to be speakers were such well-known names as J. A. Hynek, Kenneth Arnold, John Keel, Donald Keyhoe, B. Le Poer Trench, J. Lorenzen, astronaut McDivitt, Aime Michel, Carl Sagan, D. Saunders, J. Vallee, and E. von Daniken. No details of the proceedings are available yet, apart from a couple of news items, which we have no doubt emphasise the most sensational and controversial of the matters aired:

Sydney Daily Telegraph, 21/4/77: (Erich von Daniken)...said about 22,000 stones, engraved with likenesses of spaceships, telescopes and modern medical equipment had been found on the bed of the Oca River, close to the Nazca Plain in Peru. Von Daniken showed slides of the stones to the International Congress on UFO phenomena in Acapulco, Mexico. The stones, estimated to be 8,000 years old, range from soccer ball size to that of large boulders. They depict such scenes as Indians peering through apparently modern telescopes at the stars. Among the stars sails a ship, which, according to von Daniken, is "a space vehicle". Von Daniken, whose books have sold 38 million copies, told the conference the Dogo tribe of Mali was aware of the existence of the "invisible" star Sirius B long before astronomers located it.

The Australian, 26/4/77: A gathering in Acapulco, Mexico, billed as the greatest international flying saucer conference, has ended with a call for a major United Nations investigation. The conference has not managed to explain away UFOs, but it has demonstrated why research on the subject has been fragmented, and abolished some common fallacies. The call for an investigation followed a speech by the Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, who renewed his demand for a UN psychic research institute to look into the Bermuda Triangle...and related issues such as the sighting of UFOs... But Acapulco has also shown the growing three-way split between scientists who concentrate on the physical aspects of UFOs, the believers who have had a saucer experience and use it as a revivalist cult, and the splinter group that discards the possibility of visits from space and concentrates on parapsychology... John Keel says the force behind UFOs is a magnetic force that has existed throughout history, manifesting itself in different ways. His research shows that sightings occur during the same period and in the same places as sightings of other unexplained phenomena such as the yeti, the Loch Ness monster and ghosts. Witnesses commonly suffered from the symptoms of trances and recited their experiences as if programmed...what was occurring, he said, was mass manipulation of the human mind by an unknown magnetic force. Instead of chasing flying saucers, he said, scientists should "find the source of this mischief"....The doyen of the experts here is Dr. Alan Hynek, an eminent American astrophysicist, who has urged a level-headed approach to the issue. As he and others have pointed out, ridicule has prevented more than a fraction of sightings being reported, has caused great pain to many (people often commit suicide, divorce or otherwise change their lives radically after seeing a UFO) and has stopped organisations such as the Ford Foundation from giving to flying saucer research.

ANGEL HAIRDo UFOs Produce "Angel's Hair"? (Xenolog No. 108, 33 Dee St., Timaru, N.Z.)

Ufologists have long been interested in falls of "Angel's Hair" associated with UFOs. In the early nineteen fifties French scientist Aime Michel suggested that angel's hair was formed out of the air by rotating, electrically charged UFOs in much the same way as threads of molten sugar are extruded from the rotating centre of a candy-floss, or cotton-candy, machine. (It had long been known in plasma physics that a light, white substance forms around the spark gap of high voltage test equipment under some circumstances. This smoke-like material quickly evaporates, or sublimates, and does not appear to have been chemically analysed at all). Michel's theory that angel's hair was an example of an atmospheric polymer (probably made up of threads of oxygen and nitrogen atoms lightly linked together) was given some credence by the fact that several reports noted these white threads quickly evaporated on touch - several falls of this kind have been recorded in New Zealand.

A similar phenomenon occurs in nature. During fine, clear days in autumn the orb-web spider often disperses to new territory by producing a long thin thread of proteinaceous web which is caught by the wind and used as a parachute. The spider is swept along until the web catches on something, or until the spider itself lets go. At migration times, great masses of gossamer may be produced and this may cover telephone wires, bushes and the ground in a white, silvery layer. Falls of spider web have been reported from boats miles out to sea, although the spiders themselves have not been present. Occasionally, spiderweb condenses in the slipstream of aircraft to form white, fibrous lumps of cobweb which floats down afterwards.

Therefore, two possibilities exist. UFOs may produce gossamer falls from either spinning the stuff out of "thin air", or else they may cause spiderweb gossamer to condense around themselves as they move through the air. Michel's theory has not yet been proved or disproved and many samples taken from falls associated with UFO activity are required to indicate one way or the other. Such events are extremely rare, so it is likely that the ufologists' interest in angel's hair will last for some time.

Flows and Flows of Angel Hair by D. Sargent, (ACOS Bulletin, No. 9, P.O. Box 546, Gosford, NSW, 2250)

Quite often, what looks like a single mystery becomes a virtual Pandora's box of secondary puzzles, and the UFO problem is certainly no exception to this. The mystery of the flying-objects soon calls up a host of other mysteries ranging from the psychic experiences which seem associated with them, through the puzzling and as yet unexplained ground markings to the now little-mentioned puzzle of the falling angel hair. What is this strange substance, where does it originate and by what process is it formed?

Reports, especially from the early days of the UFO mystery, suggest that it was most commonly associated with the (now rarely seen) "cloud cigars", that it often fell in large quantities over a limited (but often considerable) area, that it appeared more or less metallic yet felt sticky to the touch and dissolved rapidly upon reaching the ground, a process much enhanced by handling.

Attempts have been made to explain this phenomenon in terms of spider webs and radar chaff, however these have not met with a great deal of success. Vallee believed the substance to be composed of ionized material in an unstable state (1) and T. R. Blann attempted to explain it in terms of masses of complex and unstable molecules formed in our atmosphere by means of the intense microwave radiation of UFOs (2). But what is its connection with the rest of the UFO problem? Is it an "accident" or does it comprise an integral part of the overall mystery?

Such questions cannot be answered at present. We cannot even be sure where the angel's hair mystery relates to other strange substances such as "star (or devil) jelly" and those mysterious, rapidly dissolving, balls of foam-like matter which have been, from time to time, reported. Are these natural phenomena, perhaps of a biological origin or, maybe, the result of complex chemicals built up by atmospheric electrical activity, a la Blann?

The angel's hair might (and I stress "might") hold the key to the whole UFO mystery. Is it not possible that the "solid substance" from which at least some UFOs appear to be composed may be angel's hair?

This sounds preposterous, I know, but both daylight discs and angel's hair share approximately the same quasi-metallic appearance, both remain visible for a limited time, and both seem able to vanish without a trace - quickly and cleanly. Also, if angel's hair is in a highly ionized state, may this not explain the electrical effects of UFOs, including the bluish glow surrounding many daylight discs? Of course, there must be more to UFOs than this. For instance, if angel's hair results from some electrical phenomenon, this hypothetical phenomenon must come first, but this phenomenon need not be (as Blann suggests) electrical discharges on the surface of a (metallic) UFO.

Anyway, I threw this suggestion into the melting pot for what it is worth, which may not be very much. What is more important at the present time is that we get a fuller picture of the angel's hair - star jelly - foam-ball phenomenon. ACOS would certainly be glad to hear from anyone having any experience of this phenomenon or who has some ideas on this issue. Even if this is not the key to the composition of the UFOs, it may at least be an interesting side issue.

References: (1) Vallee, J. "Anatomy of a Phenomenon", p. 62 (Tandem edition, 1974).
(2) Blann, T. R. "What UFOs can do to us", Part II, "Official UFO", July, 1976.

**A fall of "angel hair" over Auckland on Jan. 15 was reported in the last Bulletin. A similar case occurred again over Mangere, Auckland on Jan. 19. Xenolog reports:Several observers noted that there seemed to be pieces of fibrous white material falling from the sky in the wake of the object....Samples were also collected from the Mangere fall last January and subjected to analysis. Once again the analyst's verdict was "spider's web". Following this announcement a small controversy erupted between Auckland ufologists and the analysts... The analyst's report was glib and badly presented, and the calls for a better investigation are quite justifiable (cobweb falls of this kind usually occur in the autumn and not mid-summer - a considered analysis of the material is therefore justified on the basis of unusualness). The analyst's report lacked detail and verges on condescension....

ANIMAL REACTIONS AND THE UFO

The disturbing effect on animals in the presence of UFOs has been on record for many years, although the actual cause remains a mystery. In his book "Ufology", J. M. McCampbell has offered some interesting ideas as to the conditions required to unduly disturb animals, dogs in particular. Animals, incidentally, do not have it all to themselves as birds, and even insects, have been known to react. Horses are said to be particularly sensitive to small electrical charges, but the cause of the disturbance may well be of another nature.

High frequency sound has been suggested, as it is well known that dogs can hear a higher pitch than is normally detected by the human ear. McCampbell goes much further and suggests the possibility of micro-wave radiation being the agent in animal reactions and other unusual effects, including those on humans.

There has been a lot of effort towards development of UFO detectors, mostly along the lines of magnetic disturbance, and some of these devices have proved quite efficient. The problem here, of course, is that to be successful, these detectors would have to be distributed by the thousand, which is somewhat impracticable, not to mention the cost. Furthermore, monitoring would lead to a few problems.

McCampbell again comes to our rescue and suggests that dogs, considering their sensitivity, may prove to be the ufologist's best friend. Dogs are distributed by the millions around the world, ever alert, and usually well within earshot, as anyone trying to sleep through their nocturnal gossiping would agree.

Before one could use the behaviour of dogs as a UFO detector, one would have to ascertain just what is normal behaviour for dogs and what is abnormal. For instance, is it always that a dog barks then waits for an answer? Is it only a few local dogs involved? Do all dogs bark at once or do they politely wait their turn? Judging from reports around the world, a high flying UFO can certainly disturb animals, and a UFO in close proximity can send them into a frenzy. Are there any normal circumstances which can cause such a frenzy in animals?

Readers, particularly those in rural areas, may be familiar with the behaviour pattern of dogs, and may care to write to VUFORS noting typical behaviour and what would be considered unusual.

- Les Bristol.

BOOK REVIEW: "EARTH SCIENCE AT CRISIS" by HARVEY CARDWELL

by Nada Richards

This brief text, written by a non-scientist, claims to be an expose of a cover-up by the scientific establishment when it accepted what Cardwell alleges is the false premise that light is a constant velocity wave.

From this statement the author proceeds to foretell the destruction of human civilization unless we take the commonsense view of the structure of light, i.e., that it is corpuscular and travels at inconstant speed. Cardwell presumes this is what the UFOs in our skies have done; his saucer people spell doom for us unless the scientists change their thinking.

This basic hypothesis leads us from theories of gravitation to positive knowledge of the structure of the Universe. Harvey Cardwell allows science no presumptions, no hypotheses, no speculation, yet his entire idea is based on supposition. He disregards many important facts and overlooks experimental evidence.

He could, in fact, be America's answer to Bruce Cathie. (Vantage Press, Inc., N.Y., 1976)

SOME OLD CASES

These few cases from many years gone by may be of interest. Taken from newspaper archives and VUFORS records, they have probably never been publicised to any extent before:

* A pilot with more than 6000 hours civil flying experience, Mr. Fred Bepps of Geelong, always used to laugh at flying saucers - until yesterday. Then, at 3.30 p.m., from his house in Pleasant Rd., Belmont, he saw "the most extraordinary flying object, definitely not an aeroplane, travelling at terrific speed about 35,000 feet up".

Mr. Bepps began flying in 1935, was a wartime instructor in the RAAF, and now owns four aircraft. He said today: "I'm not one who sees things. I was very reluctant to report it, but my wife convinced me that others might have seen it, too".

Here is Mr. Bepps' account of the object that changed him from a cynic to a startled man. He was repairing spouting on the roof of his house when his young son Paul called to him from the ground to look at the aeroplane. "The lad is used to aircraft and knows them so I looked straight up", said Mr. Bepps. "Nothing was further from my mind than flying saucers and I've always thought something was wrong with the people who reported them. At first I could not see anything. Then I clearly saw something circular like a huge spinning top travelling south east towards Marshall far faster than any other aircraft. It flashed as it revolved as if there was a mirror on one side. Behind it was the blue-black smoke trail".

Mr. Bepps said that, afraid to believe his own eyes, he hurried down the ladder to call a neighbour. But when he looked again the object had disappeared in a cloud. He listened carefully for engine-echo, but there was no sound. Mr. Bepps is certain that what he saw was a flying machine "faster than anything on earth".

- Herald, 14/6/1950

The Geelong Advertiser, 14/6, in its report, said: "Shaped like a round disc, and coloured bronze on top and silver underneath, the saucer flashed as it revolved".

* A young farmer who saw seven "flying saucers" flash across the sky near Avoca on July 4 insisted today that he wasn't dreaming. He is Alex H. Holland, 23, a former member of the Geelong Aero Club. Holland, who lives at Lamplough, about 5 miles from Avoca, and well away from main roads, said he saw seven shining discs cross the road about 9.15 p.m. He was in bed in a sleepout when he noticed a bright light outside. Thinking it was someone coming to the farm in a car, he got up and dressed. There was no car in sight, but he could hear the distinct

noise of a civil aircraft on the regular Melbourne-Adelaide run. "I was going back to bed when I saw a shining disc rise from the horizon in the south, fly overhead and disappear over the eastern horizon", he said. "Six more followed in quick succession. They all went in the same direction except one. It turned sharply and went back where it came from. Each one looked a bit larger than a full moon, they were all the same size, and travelled at a terrific speed and at a great height".

Holland's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Holland, called to the yard to see the lights, arrived too late. But they said they had seen the bright lights and also thought a car was approaching. -Herald, 5/7/1950.

"...gave me the impression of a large propellor spinning at terrific speed".

An object he said he and his wife saw in the sky between Torquay and Anglesea was described thus to The Age yesterday by Dr. V. Hajek, Bachelor of Science and Czech engineer. Dr. Hajek, of Wattletree Rd., Armadale - who does not appear to be the kind of citizen to be startled easily - came to Australia four years ago. No scoffer previously - he holds the view that all men of sense and science should have an open mind on the subject - Dr. Hajek is convinced that flying saucers do exist. Dr. Hajek has just returned from a motor cycle trip to Adelaide, with his wife as pillion passenger. Yesterday he said:

"I was riding my motorcycle in broad daylight across the small bridge just outside Torquay when the event happened. It was one of the most thrilling and terrifying experiences of my life. Midway across the bridge I heard a dreadful noise. It came so suddenly and so loudly above the noise of my motorcycle that I was startled. I thought the bridge was collapsing and looked back to see what had happened. As I turned my head I saw out of the corner of my eye an object like a large metal propellor rotating at high speed. It was making a noise much louder than that made by a Vickers-Viscount jet. The noise seemed to be superimposed on a sizzling sound of high pitch. When I secured a clearer view of the object, which was travelling at a speed between 700 and 800 mph, about a quarter of a mile from me and approximately 300 feet up, I could see that it was elliptical and highly polished. It was slightly blurred because of the rotating motion, but it gave the impression of a large propellor spinning at terrific speed".

Dr. Hajek said he estimated the object to have been about 40 feet in diameter. It did not appear to have any fuselage or rudder. It was in his sight for about 12 seconds. It climbed rapidly in a northerly direction. It left no vapour trail.

"But it was there, and I saw it", Dr. Hajek said. "So did my wife, who became very frightened at the time, although she is accustomed to seeing and knows quite a lot about many types of planes".

Dr. Hajek was formerly associated with the University of Prague. Before escaping from Czechoslovakia and coming to Australia he was with the Czech government's department of research and development of automotives and aircraft.

-Melbourne Age, 12/1/1955.

*Hundreds of people saw a "flying saucer" over Melbourne late last night. Home-going theatre crowds stopped and gaped as the "saucer" drifted slowly down and across busy Collins Street, towards Victoria Dock. Switchboards of The Argus office, the police, airlines and the weather bureau were jammed as inquiries came in about "a huge object" in the sky.

Later a startled motorist told of a "huge black saucer, 30 feet across, with lights from underneath", that rose up from a paddock on the Geelong road and soared over some trees towards Laverton. "I was just passing the new brick works, 16 miles from Melbourne, on my way from Geelong, when I saw it", he said. He said the weird low-flying object was almost an exact replica of overseas "saucer" pictures. "It shot up from behind some trees in the roadside paddock site of the new Western Suburbs Cemetery with a hissing whine".

Late last night TAA and ANA issued a special alert to all inbound and outbound planes to keep a close watch for the "saucer" in a bid to track it down. Many of the observers said the saucer was surmounted by a cabin with lighted portholes, and had four "landing knobs" underneath.

From Collins St., Mr. Frank Hoath, of Glenhuntly Rd., Elwood, rang to say: "I've just seen a flying saucer going diagonally south and west over Collins St. and below the clouds".

Mr. Alex Hume, taxi driver of Barkly St., St. Kilda: "I just dropped a fare in Smith St., Collingwood, when he said, 'Can you see that?', and pointed to a dark circular thing moving over the Exhibition dome. It was like a cone with a light in it. I was frightened until it went out of sight".

Mr. I. Crawford of Edwards St., Kew told the Argus: "I was on a training run in the reservoir paddock off Cotham Road when I saw the saucer at 10.55. It came from a quarter way up the horizon and swept right over my head, a flat disc with a cabin on top, silhouetted against the sky".

Mr. Peter Reilly, of Disraeli St., Kew, said: "It was low, below the clouds, and drifting slowly west. I've never seen anything like it before".

Harassed Weather Bureau, Civil Aviation and RAAF officers could give no explanation for the "saucer". "Without seeing it, I would have associated it with the electrical storm earlier tonight, but the storm came from the north west towards the south east - the opposite direction - and cleared so rapidly that I don't think it could have been the cause of a mass delusion. You never know, we may have a report of men from Mars in the morning".

-Melbourne Argus, 1/10/1955.

*From a letter to the Society from a young Sydney woman:

....I was living in Balmain at the time in 1962. I was 15 years old, and it was going on 12 O'clock, and I went up to the bus stop a block away. It was in either spring or autumn because I remember how still the air was, it was crisp and clean smelling. The sky was clear and bright, every star was out, because of this I felt wonderful as I walked, when, just as I turned the corner to go up the last street, I sensed something strange. I don't know why, but I kept looking at the sky, but only in one direction, as if I expected something. I thought I was acting silly so I shook it off and took no notice.

Then as I got halfway up the road I was suddenly aware that my pace had slowed down and I seemed to have almost no control over my legs. I was so surprised I forced myself to stop and I looked around, then I heard a strange sound, very faint, though, so I looked around and not a car was in the street, nor a person for that matter. Then something made me look up, and there it was: it was very large and growing bigger, coming straight at me. I thought it was going to crash then it suddenly stopped and hovered for 40 to 50 seconds, much larger than anything I have ever seen. I was so shocked I could just not believe my eyes. Then I finally tore my eyes away from the sight and searched the street for another witness, but I saw no one. I saw two women walk inside a house, but I knew it was too late to get them, it would take too long, "it" would be gone by then. I suddenly realised I was helpless, so I just watched "it" and remembered every detail.

I had the feeling of helplessness and admiration and wonder, it was beautiful. And after the hovering it moved slowly over the top of the buildings on the far-most corner of the other side of the street, and then with fantastic speed it shot like a bullet back into space up out of sight.

The thing itself had three tails. It was silver in colour with grey shadow in the upper part. In my own opinion the tails were caused by friction. Of course I am not sure of the tail colours, to the best of my recollection they are right. But I could not be sure of that.

But the strange sound is the thing that I cannot put in writing or words, it just cannot be described properly, but I will try. It was a sort of half hiss, very high-pitched, with a sort of humming. That is the best I can do as it was very faint and brief....

(The witness's sketch showed a dome-like shape with three parallel vaporous "tails" extending from the rear.)

*A Donald farmer has reported a strange occurrence on Sunday (24th) at about 8.55 p.m. Noticing something strange moving about above ground in a paddock south east of Donald, he went to investigate. At first, the landowner it must be someone on a motor cycle, and as he approached in the car and speeded up across the paddock after it, it seemed to keep out of close range of the car beams. Then it appeared like an object somewhere about 20 feet in diameter with red and green lights showing. The pursuer became really interested, and commenced to think it must be a small plane in distress and trying to take off. When he speeded up across the paddock, the object rose about 20 feet above the ground, cleared the fence, and made off at a low level towards Cope Cope. He had got to about 60 mph and had thought he had it cornered. As it went up, part of it appeared to appear like the cabin of a utility, but the whole occurrence left the landowner deeply mystified, somewhat shaken, and wondering whether anyone else had caught sight of anything about that time that would appear to support his "sighting". Had it been a helicopter, the sound could have been heard.

The marks of the farmer's drive were easily visible and were inspected the next morning. The sheep were all concentrated in one corner, and the cattle at one end, of the paddock....

- Donald Times, 29/10/1965.

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